

SOURCE REF:

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ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: 10 JUL 74

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN STATES WEIGHING RESUMPTION OF TIES TO  
CUBA

MOMENTUM APPEARS TO BE BUILDING FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION BY  
SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN STATES TO RECOGNIZE THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT  
AND END THE DECADE-OLD ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SANCTIONS.  
VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT TOLD THE US AMBASSADOR THIS  
WEEK THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH COLOMBIA AND THAT  
THE TWO NATIONS WOULD ACT TOGETHER IN ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS WITH CUBA. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THREE OTHER STATES--  
PANAMA, HONDURAS, AND COSTA RICA--MIGHT JOIN THEM IN THIS ACTION.

A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR SUCH JOINT ACTION WAS ESTABLISHED  
BY THE VISIT TO CUBA BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND FIDEL CASTRO'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD

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State Department review completed

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FORM

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USE PREVIOUS  
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# OUTGOING MESSAGE

25X1

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PAGE 5

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CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL  
MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

BE WILLING TO TALK TO SECRETARY KISSINGER IF THE ECONOMIC BLOCKADE WERE LIFTED. LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES STILL ABIDING BY THE OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA ARE FEARFUL THAT A UNILATERAL MOVE BY THE US TOWARD RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CUBA WOULD LEAVE THEM HOLDING THE BAG. EVEN IF THE CENTRAL AMERICANS DECIDE NOT TO JOIN IN, VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA ARE LIKELY TO GO AHEAD, PROBABLY AFTER THE INAUGURATION OF LOPEZ MICHELSON AS COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ON AUGUST 7. SUCH ACTION MIGHT THEN HAVE A SNOWBALL EFFECT, AND OTHER COUNTRIES-- ESPECIALLY COSTA RICA AND PANAMA--MAY FOLLOW SUIT.

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